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early date in France, but geologists on both sides of the channel received them with incredulity.

In vain did the discoverer, M. Boercher de Perthes lay the evidence before them. So firmly were they fixed in their traditional belief in the late date of the appearance of man that all his efforts failed to move them until Dr. Falconer visited the region, saw and was convinced. At his suggestion, Prestwich, Godwin, Austen and others went to Amiens, and the former in his paper before the Royal Society gained over his English brethren to the new faith which he had himself adopted on seeing the evidence presented in the valley of the Somme.

He even extended the limit of time which the French geologist had demanded by proving that the gravels were of at least two ages, and that the high level or older beds had been deposited before the valley itself had been excavated by the river.

In the same time was the report on the Brixham Cave in 1872, where new evidence of the vast antiquity of the human race was adduced and previous conclusions were more than supported. Those who can look back to the time can well recall the conditions and realize the boldness of the few who dared to stand for the new truth and face the storm of 'odium theologicum,' which set in at once and beat on their reputation. Years passed by before it began to blow over, and only disappointment, loss and mental suffering were the reward of many who read and believed and acknowledged their faith. It is hard now to understand the effort it cost twenty-five or thirty years ago.

Prof. Prestwich has taken an active part in the efforts to find coal in the southeast of England; in the discussion relative to the channel tunnel, in the investigation of deep sea temperatures and in the water supply of London, "*nihil tetigit quod non ornavit.*"

His large work on geology, in two vol-

umes, appeared in 1886 and 1888 with a geological map of Europe, and contains the matured results of his life's work. His energy continued almost to the last; papers on quaternary geology and the antiquity of man have been read or written as late as the year 1893.

Honors flowed in on the veteran geologist from all sides. He received the Wollaston medal in 1849, a royal medal from the Royal Society in 1865; he was President of the Geological Society of London from 1870 to 1872, Vice-President of the Royal Society in 1870 and 1871. He received the Telford medal from the Institute of Civil Engineers in 1874, was President at the reunion of the Geological Society of France, in 1880, and was elected a corresponding member of the 'Institute' in 1885. A short time only before his death he received from Her Majesty the honor of knighthood.

His later years have been spent at Darent Hulme, near Sevenoaks, Kent, a home after his own taste, as those who have had the pleasure of visiting him well know. Geology is worked into every feature and adorns every corner and panel. It stands in the beautiful chalk downs, overlooking the valley of the Weald, where he delighted to ramble and where his life was shared by Mrs. Prestwich, niece of Hugh Falconer, herself attached to the pursuits of her husband, whose latterly feeble health she guarded with loving care.

E. W. C.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

RESEARCHES IN MEXICO.

THE rich soil of Mexico and Central America is never scratched but it yields a harvest. How much there is in that land of promise for the ethnographer and antiquary is well illustrated in the brief description of his journey from Mexico City to Guatemala, contributed by Prof. Starr to the *Chicago University Record*, for May 22,

1896. He did not find the 'pygmies' of which there was some talk at the American Association last summer; but the presence of cretins in the barrancas near Guadalajara was established. In Chiapas, many cases of *pinto* was observed and also of goitre. No reference is made to the remarkable antiquities of this state, but doubtless they were not overlooked. The pottery, lacquer work and native costumes are mentioned. A number of notes were made for future studies.

Prof. Starr has also translated and published a pamphlet on Aztec place-names from the works of Father de la Rosa and Dr. Peñafiel. It is to be regretted that this list was not revised before publication by some competent student of the tongue. Several of the explanations are certainly erroneous, and others doubtful. The Nahuatl is not a difficult language either in its phonetics or its composition, and it now has excellent dictionaries and grammars, of easy access.

A NEW ANTHROPOLOGICAL JOURNAL.

THE science of anthropology is developing so rapidly, the contributions to it are so numerous and in so many languages and publications, that Dr. G. Buschan of Stettin, very justly thought the time has come when a journal should be started intended to take in the whole field, and give a quarterly summary of the progress of the science the world over. This he has carried out in the *Centralblatt für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte*, issued at Breslau (J. U. Kern's Verlag. Price 12 marks, 80 Pf., for this country).

It contains one or more original articles, one, for instance, by Dr. Orsi on the ancient necropolis of Novilara in Sicily, and one by Dr. Sergi on the distribution of the Mediterranean race. Most of the pages are, however, occupied with brief notices of the leading articles on the science in various

journals, transactions and proceedings, or separately published, including books. They are intended to be descriptive rather than critical, and to serve as a running index of the literature of the science.

There is need of just such a publication, and every student of the science of man will be sure to find references to works and articles for which he will be grateful. It should acquire a good subscription list in the United States. D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

ADAPTATIONS IN CAVE-DWELLING ANIMALS.

THE influence of environment upon organisms is nowhere more striking than in the case of animals which find themselves accidentally lost in caves and which succeed in accustoming themselves to the situation in spite of its difficulties. M. Armand Viré gives some notes on his observations, in the *Comptes Rendus*. The principle difference in the situation consists in the absence of light and in the rarity of animal prey. The eye always becomes atrophied to a degree which varies with the species and also with the individual; there is sometimes a difference between the two eyes of a single individual. The eyes are to a certain extent replaced by other organs of sense; the antennæ of the *Campodes* become, in some individuals, twice as long as usual, and sometimes longer than the entire body. The tactile hairs with which the body is covered obtain an exaggerated development, and in the crustaceans sometimes even invade the ocular globe. Hearing does not seem to be accentuated, but the sense of smell is very acute, and a bit of tainted flesh becomes invaded in a very few minutes with a large colony of animals. The organs of digestion become very considerably modified in those species which are naturally carnivorous, and in two *Staphylin*s the mandibles were found to be completely atrophied. Every animal is more or less completely depigmented; but those which had no trace of color remaining began to have numerous little black spots disseminated over the whole body after they had been kept for a